

**What I/We claim**

1. An isolated DNA fragment of *Oryza sativa* *OSISAP1*, wherein the DNA fragment includes a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. A polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 2  
5 encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 of claim 1.
3. An isolated recombinant plant vector comprising in the 5'to 3' direction of transcription:  
a promoter functional in a plant;  
an *OSISAP1* sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1; and  
10 a transcription terminator functional in a plant.
4. An isolated recombinant plant vector DNA according to claim 3, wherein the DNA is a plasmid.
5. An isolated recombinant vector DNA according to claim 3, wherein the promoter is cauliflower mosaic virus 35S.
- 15 6. An isolated recombinant vector DNA according to claim 3, wherein the transcription terminator is *nos* terminator.
7. A method of increasing stress tolerance in a plant, said method comprising of transforming the said plant with a recombinant vector of claim 3, to yield transformed plants.
- 20 8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said plant used for transformation is selected from a group consisting of tobacco, rice and tomato plant.
9. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said method provides transformed plants having increased tolerance to cold stress.
10. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said method provides transformed  
25 plants having increased tolerance to drought stress.
11. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said method provides transformed plants having increased tolerance to salt stress.
12. A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 7, wherein said transformed plant exhibits increased tolerance to cold stress.
- 30 13. A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 7, wherein said transformed plant exhibits increased tolerance to drought stress.
14. A transgenic plant produced by the method of claim 7, wherein said transformed plant exhibits increased tolerance to salt stress.

15. Seeds produced by the transgenic plant of claim 12.
16. Seeds produced by the transgenic plant of claim 13.
17. Seeds produced by the transgenic plant of claim 14.